



Getting Out

Marsha Norman

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12 IN THE CAST

Getting Out Details

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From Reader Review Getting Out for online ebook

Alli says

It was an okay book. I wouldn't read it again or recommend it to a friend. I think that it might be that it is just not my style. It got confusing to read while there was stuff going on with Arlie and Arline. You just couldn't tell what conversation each line was a part of. I thought that some parts moved very slowly while other parts moved way to fast. It just didn't flow right for me.

Rowena says

2.5. ehh, it was okay. i liked the loudspeaker parts, which were like 1/20th of the play. not very fulfilling or anything. not a huge fan of realism?

Meltha says

Rather bleak.

Letitia says

A pretty intense, well-intentioned play. Overall well-written, but difficult to produce.

Simon says

A required read for my Scene Study Course.

I found this play to be hard to understand at first, but it did click and make sense in the end.

I find the flashbacks intermingled with the present very hard to grasp onto without much stage direction about it. The story itself is a good one, and I like the feel of the characters, a very different way of life compared to the upper classes of society.

Jill says

She is sooooo F*cked up!

Bob says

Everyone needs to be accepted, especially by their mothers. That is a basic need that is characteristic of all humans. Some people are denied this, which was the case for Arlene, the protagonist.

While young, probably still in her teens, Arlene -- then known as Arlie -- landed in prison. She fought authority constantly and suffered through the harsh disciplinary measures of the prison system. By the time she got out, she had changed her outlook considerably, and wanted to be called Arlene.

The play concentrated on Arlene as she moved into her post-prison apartment and took her first uncertain steps as an ex-con. One of her former prison guards took her to her new place, then tried to force himself on her. Her pre-prison boyfriend, a small time hood, showed up and tried to draw her back into his abusive snare. Arlene's earlier self -- Arlie -- was constantly in the background, replaying scenes from the past.

This is a short (64 pages) but tough play. To really absorb it, would have to read more than once. The play spent a long time on Broadway, which I've never been to. If the play was still there, I would go.
